



OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2006

FACT SHEET

SANDERS ANNOUNCES SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

MAYOR WILL LOBBY ON BEHALF OF GRANT IN WASHINGTON IN LATE MARCH

Background:

- On January 3, 2006, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced significant changes to the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant program:
 - DHS identified high risk regions will be eligible to submit proposals which would be competitively ranked and funded based on the assessment of the regional plans merit to address risk.
 - Under the previous UASI program, funds were allocated among designated “risk” areas by DHS – with that area then eligible to determine how to spend those funds consistent with federal regulations.)
 - The DHS calculation of UASI area “risk” was altered – with the calculation being expanded to include significant numbers of risk assessments that combined to provide a “score” for the region. Facts included levels of threat, vulnerabilities, and consequence to a potential terrorist attack, including:
 - *Critical Infrastructure:* Assessment of asset categories (e.g. transportation, agriculture, utilities), determined by Intelligence expert review of the intent and capability of terrorists to successfully attack those assets, as well as the vulnerability to, and impact of, an attack on those assets.
 - *Geographic Area Characteristics:* Reported credible threats, investigative information, population density, proximity to borders and similar factors deemed likely to make a community more likely to be a terrorist target.

- San Diego was deemed eligible to compete for FY06 UASI funds based on its previous inclusion in the program. The new DHS risk assessment did not recognize San Diego as “high-threat”. Of the 46 eligible urban areas, 11, including San Diego, are in the “sustainment” category.
- DHS used an algorithm or matrix that produced a quantified risk assessment for each region. DHS asserts that the number and quality of inputs this year are enormously greater than prior years – increasing from 42,000 cells of data and 2 million calculations in FY2005, to 20 million cells of data and more than 3 billion calculations in FY 2006. These factors will be recalculated annually to determine funding eligibility.
- The new application process requires urban areas to identify their regional needs, but does NOT permit them to make a case for being a “high-risk” area. The major components of the application are:
 - Relevance to the National Preparedness goals and priorities
 - Regionalization and effective collaboration
 - Sustainability
 - Implementation approach
 - Impact (most bang for the buck)

City’s Efforts to Appeal DHS Risk Assessment:

Goals

- Assurance from DHS that San Diego’s classification as eligible for “sustainment” funding will NOT be a detriment to the FY 06 UASI application
- In the absence of formal change in FY 06 designation for San Diego, seek DHS assurance that San Diego will be deemed “high-risk” for FY 07.

Advocacy Activities to date

- Mayor Sanders hand delivered letter to the Secretary outlining concerns with the announcement.
- Mayor Sanders partnered with the region’s elected Congressional Representatives and Senators as well as the State of California to appeal decision:
 - Congressman Hunter and Secretary Chertoff toured the border area and came to an agreement that DHS will provide a classified delegation briefing on the process and inputs.
 - Formal letters of concern regarding San Diego’s designation were sent to Secretary Chertoff by:
 - Senator Feinstein
 - Senator Boxer
 - Representatives Hunter, Davis, Filner and Issa (joint letter)
 - Governor Schwarzenegger

- Congressional classified briefings were conducted by DHS
 - First round were unsatisfactory, additional classified briefings are scheduled for March 6 (Feinstein) and March 8 (Congressional Delegation)
 - Formal questioning of Secretary Chertoff during Capitol Hill Hearings has lead to additional classified briefings.

<p>Mayor Sanders will travel to Washington, D.C. at the end of March to personally lobby DHS and Congress on Homeland Security.</p>
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FY06 Grant Application:

- Application is a two-part process including both the urban areas (UA) and the State. The State provides a multi-year “Enhancement Plan” and the UA and the State investments must support that enhancement plan.
- The UA is prohibited from addressing their “risk” assessment in the application and must focus on need and consequence of NOT funding that need
- Each UA may submit up to 15 investments, however, the best approach is to include only the number of investments the UA believes will score highly.
- San Diego has submitted eight investments comprising eight areas critical to enhancing the capabilities of the region to respond effectively to an act of terrorism or other catastrophic event.
- The eight investments are:
 - **Interoperable Communications and Connectivity:** Supports improvements in interoperable communications among all emergency responders. It concentrates on backbone systems rather than on individual devices that connect to the backbone and carried by responders. Investment, \$5,085,730, is 80% equipment, 14% planning and smaller amounts for exercises and M&A.
 - **Regional Information/Data Standards and Systems:** Supports improved collaboration based on leveraging new technology. Common communication standards lead to expanded data communication through existing cell phone technology and other portable units. Investment, \$5,276,705, is 63% planning and 32% equipment with the remainder in exercises and M&A.
 - **Urban Area Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Protection:** Supports hardening of specific critical infrastructure/key resource sites such as water department facilities, police and fire stations, government buildings and large public venues that make attractive terrorist targets. Investment, \$15,276,963, contains all of the elements of investment. The largest are equipment at \$8.4 million, planning at \$4.2 million and

training at \$900,000. The equipment cost includes a large component of structural hardening such as barriers, controlled access systems and monitoring cameras.

- **CBRNE/WMD (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, Explosive/Weapons of Mass Destruction) Detection and Response Capabilities:** Supports improved capability to detect radiation, biological agents and chemical agents. It also provides equipment to ensure that emergency responders can respond safely to a terrorist event. Investment, \$10,236,072, is 68% equipment, 25% training and the remainder for planning, exercising and M&A.
- **Strengthening of Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities:** Supplements other funding sources and fills gaps that other grants cannot address. One major product of this investment will be to identify and characterize the large disabled community. This product will also be used to support mass evacuation and natural disaster response activities. Investment, \$525,473, is equally spread among personnel costs, planning costs and equipment costs. M&A is an additional 3%.
- **Increasing Community Preparedness and Integration of Special Needs Populations:** Supports an expanded program of public education and community outreach and existing programs such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to enhance disaster preparedness and reduce pressure on limited response resources during the critical early hours of a disaster response. It also includes a significant outreach to the private business sector for additional resources and as an additional conduit to special needs populations. Investment, \$2,239,117, is 40% planning, 15% personnel, 18% training with the remainder spread among equipment, exercises and M&A.
- **Catastrophic Event Citizen Protections:** Supports mass evacuation planning and a component of supporting self-sufficient communities to enhance protection of our residents. Mass evacuations are complex operations in an urbanized region and must be carefully integrated to avoid results such as those in Houston and New Orleans. Investment, \$1,649,485, is 60% planning, 25% equipment, 12% training and 3% M&A. This investment leverages several other significant funding sources.
- **Development of Regional Recovery Plans:** This investment specifically supports regional recovery planning to ensure the most rapid recovery possible after a disaster to restore residents to their homes and economic health to the region. Investment, \$1,030,000, is 97% planning and 3% M&A.

Interoperable Communications is the number one priority for the Urban Area.
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Timeline:

2/24/06	San Diego Urban Area application submitted to State OHS
3/03/06	State submits final applications for FY06 UASI program to Federal DHS.

- Late March/
Early April Peer review of applications begins – No penalty in this phase of the process for being in the “sustainment” category.
- Each UASI is reviewed and ranked separately
- May 2006 Final DHS review of applications
- Compete against all other UASI’s
 - Score from peer review
 - Combined with weighted factor for risk-assessment value – sustainment category applicants’ score will be lowered
- 6/02/06 Final funding decision and announcement by DHS.

March 3, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RE: FY 2006 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

The San Diego Urban Area is pleased to apply for homeland security funding under the 2006 Urban Area Security Initiative Program. San Diego is submitting eight investment areas critical to enhancing the capabilities of the region to respond effectively to an act of terrorism and to protect critical assets from becoming targets or other catastrophic events.

The eight investment areas are:

1. Interoperable Communications and Connectivity
2. Regional Information/Data Standards and Systems
3. Urban Area Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Protection
4. CBRNE/WMD Detection and Response Capabilities
5. Strengthening of Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities
6. Increasing Community Preparedness and Integration of Special Needs Populations
7. Catastrophic Event Citizen Protections
8. Development of Regional Recovery Plans

I remain deeply concerned about the potential impact in the review process of the Department's recent risk assessment and decision to designate the San Diego Urban Area as eligible under the UASI "sustainment" category. I continue to advocate for risk-based distribution of homeland security grant funding, but the effective execution of that risk review is key to success. As we have discussed, it appears that many significant geographic, strategic and asset-based risk factors included in your public statements and UASI guidance documents do not appear to have been fully reflected in the risk assessment process. For example:

- Proximity to an International Border: The San Diego Urban Area southern boundary runs along the border of Mexico, and the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Diego is the busiest border crossing in the nation. In addition to legal crossings, illegal entry and activity is commonplace, including discoveries of both

sophisticated well-financed tunnels for drug trafficking and human smuggling and crude ill-prepared tunnels.

- **Military Presence:** The urban area is home to a large percentage of the nation's strategic armed forces, and the scale and scope of the military in San Diego should be considered a higher risk factor than in other areas with a smaller military presence. While the bases certainly will protect themselves, many personnel and families live and congregate off-base in the jurisdiction of local governments. Given the legal requirements and primary objective of the military to protect their bases, assets and capabilities, it is not certain that the military would be a benefit to the region or assure response to the surrounding community in the instance of a terrorist attack or catastrophic event.
- **Population, Density, and Downtown Critical Infrastructure:** San Diego is the 7th largest city in the United States and the second largest in California. The population density ranks higher than 14 of the 35 high-risk cities on the FY06 UASI list. Also in the urban area are regional critical infrastructure vulnerabilities such as a downtown airport and port; water and waste water facilities serving over 3.5 million people and numerous military installations; substantial defense industry presence; large concentration of private biotechnology companies; nearby nuclear power plant; internationally-recognized tourist attractions like Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, and Legoland California; and other critical assets.

These factors, as well as the formal input into the process by local law enforcement, federal law enforcement and the Department of Defense, lead to a reasonable expectation that San Diego would be ranked among the top 35 cities for risk. In my previous communications with you, I have asked that the Department undertake a careful reconsideration and review of the data and intelligence information used to make the assessment.

I appreciate your efforts to date with the California Senators and San Diego Congressional Delegation toward that review and look forward to the Delegation learning even more detailed information in future classified briefings. It is my expectation that when your Department's review is complete, San Diego will again be considered among the nation's high-risk urban areas.

With that in mind, as the Department begins review of the UASI grant proposals, I respectfully request that the peer reviewers be instructed not to consider the risk rankings during their assessment and scoring of the investment justifications. I hope that you agree that reviewers should score the applications only on the basis of the demonstrated need within the urban area, the quality of the plans, and the risk of not funding that need.

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
March 3, 2006
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Thank you for your consideration and continued attention to the homeland security needs of the San Diego region.

Sincerely,

JERRY SANDERS
Mayor
City of San Diego

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